(b) whether Government have a proposal to promote the zinc smelters in the country;

(c) if so, the incentives proposed to be granted to the zinc smelters; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The details of smelters engaged in production of primary zinc owned by Hindustan Zinc Limited (a joint venture company of Government of India and M/s Sterlite Opportunities and Ventures Limited) and Binani Industries Limited (a unit in private sector) are as follows:

Sl. No.	Location of the Smelter	Name of the Organization
1.	Debari, Udaipur (Rajasthan)	Hindustan Zinc Limited
2.	Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	-do-
3.	Chanderiya, Chittorgarh (Rajasthan)	-do-
4.	Alwaye, Kerala	Binani Industries Limited

(b) to (d) The promotion of various industries including zinc industry is guided by Industrial Policy. Economic Policy and Fiscal Policy persued by the Government. The New Mineral Policy (NMP) announced in 1993 had thrown open all non-fuel/non-atomic minerals including zinc for private investment. NMP encourages efficient processing of minerals which includes Smelters.

Use of solar energy for lighting and cooking in the rural areas

4273. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to optimize the use of solar energy for lighting.and cooking in the rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the private sector companies have shown interest in manufacturing these solar cookers and solar lamps;

(c) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to provide incentive for the use of wind power for producing light etc., and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Government has been promoting the use of solar cookers for cooking applications and of photovoltaic devices for lighting applications both in urban and rural areas through various schemes of the Ministry. These schemes include promotional scheme on box solar cookers, demonstration scheme on concentrating type solar cookers, subsidy scheme for solar home systems, street lights and solar power plants* a soft loan scheme for photovoltaic systems and a specific scheme for village electrification. A total of around 5,30,500 box solar cookers, 566 concentrating cookers including 6 steam cooking systems, 2,35,162 solar home systems, 4,41,481 solar lanterns, 43,474 street lights and 4.14 MW capacity of power plants have been installed under these schemes till 31.03.2003. In addition, 800 census villages have been electrified through solar energy.

(b) About 45 private manufacturers are involved in manufacturing and sale of solar cookers. In addition, over 50 private sector companies are involved in manufacturing of solar photovoltaic devices including solar lanterns.

(c) and (d) To promote the use of wind power for lighting and other applications, the Government has been providing the following incentives:

1. Small Aero-generators & Hybrid systems-Central financial assistance in the range of 50 to 75% of the ex-works cost of the systems subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.00 lakhs/kw depending on the category of the user.

2..Wind power projects-Soft loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for establishment of commercial projects. In addition, fiscal and financial incentives are available from the government to the developers of wind power projects.

National Project for Improved Chullahs (NPIC) in Uttaranchal

4274. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the budget allocation for the National Project for Improved Chullahs (NPIC) for Uttaranchal from its inception todate;

(b) the amount utilised during this period;